

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph 0124 (at page 21, lines 16-20) as follows:

The sewing ring 14 can incorporate a flare or skirt 70. The skirt 70 can surround the perimeter (as shown) of the sewing ring 14 or can be in a segment or [[of]] segments that do not surround the perimeter of the sewing ring 14. The skirt 70 can extend radially from the sewing ring 14. The skirt 70 can be placed near or at the bottom edge 46.

Please amend paragraph 0130 (between page 23, line 15 and page 24, line 3) as follows:

Figure 30 illustrates a can 60 and an elastic space-occupying element, for example a plug 78, sized to sealingly fit a can end 80. The space-occupying element can be made of, for example, an elastomer and/or any of the other materials listed herein for any other elements or any combination thereof. The plug 78 can be removably attached to an engagement element, for example a breakaway line 82. The breakaway line 82 can be pulled (as shown by the arrow) through the can 60 to engage and fix the plug 78 in the can end 80. The breakaway line 82 can be configured to separate from the plug 78 when a maximum tension is exceeded. The plug 78 can be engaged and fixed into the other can end 80. Two space-occupying elements can be used, one space-occupying element [[elements]] for each can end 80. The space-occupying elements can be self-engaging, engaging and fixing into the can end 80 when the suture 6 is deployed and/or pulled through and/or near the space-occupying element.